The Maryland Numismatist



Calendar Medals



Ballot enclosed
Annual meeting Nov. 6 at 4PM
Baltimore Convention Center

Autumn, 2010 Volume 38 – No. 3

The Maryland State Numismatic Association, Inc.



The MARYLAND NUMISMATIST is the quarterly publication of MSNA and is distributed to all members in good standing without additional cost.

EDITOR

Simcha Kuritzky Post Office Box 13504 Silver Spring, MD 20911-3504

Simcha. Kuritzky@cgifederal.com

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President's Message

I want to first extend another "thank you" to Mark Borckardt, our second speaker in the MSNA Distinguished Lecturer Series for his visit with us during the Whitman coin show this past June. Mark's lecture, *Sixty Minutes at the First Mint*, was well received and nicely attended. His delivery of well-researched and little-known



information on early Mint personnel, operations, and challenges was truly engaging, if not fascinating. The MSNA board is already working to secure our third distinguished lecturer as we continue this series into 2011.

As we roll into autumn, I'm pleased to note how firm the state of the numismatic hobby is here in Maryland and the country at large. However, a sluggish economic environment continues to weigh in on many fronts. Recently passed Congressional legislation presents a potential risk for the future health of our hobby. The American Numismatic Association urges MSNA and its members to contact their members of Congress and ask to repeal a section of health care reform law that could significantly increase the paperwork burden on coin dealers and increase the risk of identity theft for all collectors who buy and sell numismatic material. Under Section 9006 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, businesses will be required to report on an IRS Form 1099 all goods and services purchased in excess of \$600. As written, the law would, beginning in 2012, require all coin dealers to send large quantities of 1099s.

Our recently launched MSNA website (www.MDStateNumisAssn.org) remains in its infancy. For the remainder of 2010, we will devote even more time and effort towards maturing the website design, content, and functionality options.

Thanks again to all who submitted those fine articles for the *Maryland Numismatist* Best Article contest. Our judges will soon announce the winner of the \$50 certificate to be used at the November Whitman show.

I leave you to a nice read of the remainder of this issue. I hope to see many of you at the Whitman Expo coin show this coming November in Baltimore.



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New Maryland Commemoratives

The Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission will be funded, in part, by a new pair of commemorative coins to be minted and released in 2012. HR Bill 111-2097 calls for up to 500,000 silver dollars and 100,000 gold five dollars which "shall be emblematic of the War of 1812 and particularly the Battle for Baltimore that formed the basis for the *Star-Spangled Banner*." It should be noted that the actual battle took place in 1814. Key's famous poem was later set to music and only in 1931 became the official U.S. national anthem. The coin designs will probably be shown to the Commission on Fine Arts and Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee next year.



Disappointed with the design of the Maryland state quarter back in 2000? So was Daniel Carr, but unlike most of us, he could do something about it. A sculptor and medalist of talent, Mr. Carr produced his own design for the Maryland quarter with a seaside fauna theme (as part of the application for the Mint's Artist Infusion Program). This and other medals and coin-like designs can be viewed on his web site at www.dc-coin.com and also at the Moonlight Mint's site www.moonlightmint.com/dc-coin_prot_quarters_list.htm. Unfortunately for us collectors, this medal is not for sale to the public.

The 2010 MSNA annual meeting will be held at the Whitman Coin Expo in Baltimore on Sunday, November 7 at 3 PM, right before the raffle drawing.

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- Appraise collections or individual pieces on an hourly basis
- Assist in the <u>orderly</u> disposition of holdings at current values







The New World of Calendar Medals

by George J. Fuld

The collecting specialty of calendar medals has been largely neglected by current numismatists. When the late Stuart Mosher, then curator of numismatics at the Smithsonian, sold us his collection in 1948, he imposed on us several caveats. One was that we (my father, Melvin and I) would resume Stuart's series, *Token Collectors Pages*. We complied with the request and our first article appeared in *The Numismatist* in 1951. The other was that we should expand one favorite area of Stuart's—calendar medals.

Stuart's seed collection of calendars contained only 25 medals. Over the next thirty years, the two of us amassed over 300 different calendars. We described these serially in *The Numismatist* under the tutelage of the editor, Elston Bradfield, who published them from January 1956-November 1959 and continued later from October 1971-February 1975.



Most calendar medals (and store cards) were issued in sizes from 37 to 44 mm. The earliest calendar we were aware of was dated 1582, noted in October, 1971 *The Numismatist*. It was described by Demanig in *Deutsche Medaillen* (Vienna, 1897) as #748 on page 117. At that time no specimen had been located. Bob Levinson of Los Angeles recently acquired a specimen of the 1582 issue which commemorates the changing of the calendar from Julian to Gregorian. He pointed out that his medal is listed in the Dutch medal opus by Van Loon. An image of this medal is shown above by the courtesy of Bob Levinson.

Two publications updated the Fuld cataloging. James O. Sweeny privately published a thorough revision of English calendar medals. Werner Strothotte published another catalog (in German) in 2004, titled *Die Zeit in Der Numismatik*. It lists and illustrates many European calendars. A. J. Turner published what he thought was a new study on calendars medals in the *American Journal of Numismatics* second series volume 5-6 (1993-94), pages 209-219. He was totally unaware of existing American publications on calendar medals.



Yearly issues of calendar medals occurred in England, but only by private coiners. Sweeny's revision denotes them in detail. The Austrian Mint issued the first official calendar medals by a national mint in 1933. They still issue them currently. Originally the Vienna Mint sold only bronze, silver plate and sterling silver versions. Today, if you can afford it, they can be supplied in gold. They have maintained the series throughout the years with a 40 mm size.



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The Japanese Mint started to issue yearly calendars in 1948 and have continued to the present. They are issued in bronze with early issues in a 38 mm size up to 1951, but then switched to a smaller 30 mm dimension. These are available from the Mint in Osaka, Japan.



However, starting in 1963, massive calendars were issued in a 95 mm size. As best I can tell, the Paris Mint produced the first 95 mm issue. I assume they issued these for every year since 1963, but so far have not been able to identify calendars from 1965, 1972-1976, 1978-1979, 1990-1995, 1997, 2001 and 2003-2004. Two different versions appeared in 1998, 1999 and 2006. The 1973 Fuld listings of calendars illustrated the first set of these 95 mm calendars from 1968 to 1971. We did not predict the trend to the 76 mm art medals that have become popular in the last forty years.



Actually, the Franklin Mint produced the first private issue of 76 mm art medals in 1967. They show a large bust of Franklin on the obverse. Sculptor Gilroy Roberts, retired engraver from the U. S. Mint, engraved this first medal. They issued similar medals in 1968 and 1972. From 1973 through 2001, the Franklin Mint issued art medal calendars every year. D. Wayne (Dick) Johnson's database on calendar medals detailed identification of the engravers of the calendar medals, starting in 1967. We extracted this data from Johnson's massive study on American engravers and sculptors. The Franklin Mint issues all have been recorded except 1991 and 1997 which I assume do exist. In almost all cases, Johnson has identified the sculptor of the medals.



The Medallic Art Company (MACO) entered the field of 76 mm art medals in 1975. They issued them yearly from three different locations until 2004. Dick's tenure at MACO allowed him to detail specific descriptions and the sculptor for each MACO medal from 1975 through 1990. I have located illustrations of each medal except for 1997.

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The Hoffman Mint issued 76 mm art calendars starting in 1993 and then yearly from 1996 until they discontinued them in 2005. They deviated from the 76 mm size only in 1997 when they issued a rectangular medal. The Hoffman Mint does not name the sculptors of their medals as they used in-house employees for the engraving. They also reused the obverse designs on uniface medals, other medals, and jewelry.



Medalcraft issued 76 mm art calendars starting in 1986 up to the present time. Johnson's database revealed the sculptors for the years 1992 through 1995. Medalcraft even issued bi-color medals in 2008.



The South Korea Mint apparently started issuing 76 mm art medals in 2000 up to the current 2009 issues, though I have not seen Korean medals from 2006 and 2007.



While various companies have ceased the issue of 76 mm calendar medals, a new firm entered in late 2009. Northwest Territorial Mint of Auburn, Washington issued a Boy Scout 100th anniversary calendar with selective obverse enameling.



Photo and information courtesy of fao-coins.info web site.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) issued 69 mm art calendar medals annually from 1981 to 2004.



An 88 mm art calendar from Portugal has been seen dated 1983 and 1984. I suspect other years are available.



There are a number of issues from various private enterprises. These include 76 mm art issues observed from John Deere, Caterpillar Tractor, Mozart in 1991 from Austria, Louisiana World Exposition in 1984, Cinema's 100th Anniversary in 1995, and an English art medal commemorating Shakespeare.



With the above listing of 76 mm (with a few in different large sizes) brings up the topic—is there any artistic merit to this outpouring of 76 mm art medal calendars? Many of the engravers of the medals are well-known artists. MACO employed sculptor Frank Elliscu for their initial issue in 1975, and renowned sculptor Marcel Jovine for many of their later issues. The Franklin Mint employed sculptors such as Dominic Angelini, Clifford Schule, Al Fiorentino, Ernest Lauser, Vincent Miller, Clayton Blaker, Gilroy Roberts (for the initial issue in 1967), and Donald Everhart II. Medalcraft has only partially revealed their sculptors and the Hoffman Mint has not publicized theirs. When a final catalog of the art medals is completed, Dick Johnson's data will be used to elucidate the current art calendar medals' backgrounds.

I wish to emphasize that this updated project on metallic calendar medals is a "Work In Progress". The observations of issues is often spotty and hopefully in coming months more calendars can be found—mostly on the Internet. Some of the foreign mints that issue calendar medals may supply us with illustrations of their product. Forty years ago both the Austrian Mint and the Japanese Mint did make illustrations of their issues available. To date, such cooperation has not occurred.

Clearly the artistic merit varies by both the issuing company and the sculptor. Shown here are various examples of the art medals. Since three inch medals shown full size require large areas, a compromise in illustrating them is required. You can judge for yourself which medal is worthy of the name, Artistic Calendar Medal.



[Thai mint 2009 30 mm medal from the editor's collection]



[Cape Mint 1997 90 mm medal signed Pagliari from the editor's collection]

Planned for upcoming issues:

Winter 2010 — Baltimore Elongated Cents

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Local News



MSNA President Jack Schadegg presents a set of MSNA medals from the 2008 Baltimore ANA show to Mark Borckardt

Mark Borckardt spoke for 60 minutes on the first United States Mint, which operated in Philadelphia from 1792 to 1830. He was the second speaker in our Distinguished Lecturer series, held at the June Baltimore Whitman Expo on Friday at 2PM. Over 40 people attended. MSNA made Mark an honorary life member and presented him with a silver bowling medal.

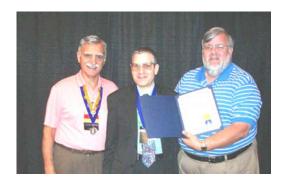


Larry
Goldman
introduces
Mark
Borckardt to
the audience



Bryce Doxzon accepts the plaque for Baltimore Coin Club's 75th anniversary

Maryland hit a triple header at the American Numismatic Association (ANA) convention this year. Collecting certificates for its silver (25th) anniversary was the **Maryland Token & Medal Society**, for its golden (50th) anniversary was the **Montgomery County Coin Club**, and for its diamond (75th) anniversary was the **Baltimore Coin Club**, all members of MSNA.



Simcha Kuritzky accepts a certificate and medal for his Feline Species exhibit

MSNA members **Simcha Kuritzky** and **Sandra Emme** won awards for their exhibits at the annual ANA World's Fair of Money, this year held in Boston. Sandra's exhibit on balloon medals, which won third place in the MSNA exhibit competition at the March 2010 Whitman Expo, also won third place in the crowded medals class at the ANA. MSNA Secretary **Bryce Doxzon** entered his exhibit on 1860 presidential election medals of the three losing candidates into this class but did not place. Simcha entered three exhibits: a Zulu War medal turned into a love token took second place in the engraved coin class; a feline species type set, also exhibited at the MSNA competition at the June 2009 Whitman Expo, won first place in the modern coins and medals class; and a type set of all Israel's money and medals portraying lions took first

place in the Africa and Middle East class and also won third place (second runner-up) in Best of Show. MSNA officers **Simcha Kuritzky** and **Bryce Doxzon** also judged at ANA.

Maryland dealer and TAMS editor **David Schenkman** won the Numismatic Literary Guild's award for best specialized book for his *West Virginia Merchant Tokens*. The NLG presented the award at its annual Bash at the ANA convention in Boston.

Montgomery County Coin Club viewed a video on Augustus Saint-Gaudens at their July meeting and heard a review of the ANA convention at their August. They plan to view ANA video *Commonality Among Commemoratives*. Sept. 14 and hold their annual donated auction for the Silver Spring Boys & Girls Club Nov. 9. Meetings are the second Tuesday at the Schweinhaut Senior Citizens Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd. in Silver Spring, near the DC Beltway (I495) and Georgia Ave.

Washington Numismatic Society held their semi-annual pot-luck dinner at the June meeting. On September 21, members will review the past ANA convention. Meetings are the third Tuesday at Community of Christ Church, 3526 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

Wendy Owens of Linganore High School, Frederick, MD, was one of the winners of the 2009/10 essay contest by Ancient Coins for Education (ACE). ACE is a non-profit organization that encourages learning about Classical history through numismatics. Wendy's essay *Reluctance*, which concerns Queen Placidia's marriage to Constantius III in 417 CE, was reprinted in the June, 2010 issue of *The Celator*.

Welcome New Members

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What's Your Sign?

Part Six: Austrian Calendar Zodiac Medals

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

One big exception to the undated rule are calendar medals issued by the Vienna, Austria Mint. These have had a zodiac theme since their inception in 1933. I don't know why they began in that year, unless it was to help get some revenue for the Mint during the hard years of the Great Depression. The medals have been issued annually since then.



Only some of the medals show the 12 signs of the zodiac or their sigils. However, each medal does name or portray a specific planetary ruler for the year (Jahresregent). Although they started in 1933 with the sun, the Viennese medals follow the ancient sequence of planets: Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Sol, Venus, Mercury, and Luna. So the 1934 medal declared Venus as ruler, 1935 Mercury, and so on up to 2010 which also is ruled by the sun. The inaugural medal of the series shows on the obverse Chronus (Saturn) as the God of Time in the center with the Sundays for each month in one of eight compartments (the title has its own compartment). The reverse lists the full and new moons and first day of the seasons in a square surrounded by small images of the 12 signs of the zodiac. Later years show different holidays and some show dates of eclipses.

The Austrian Mint did not play politics; they were completely mercenary. In 1936, just 3 years before war broke out between Austria and Britain, the Vienna Mint produced a British version of their calendar medal (presumably commissioned by a Brit). This medal includes King George V's Birthday among their holidays. The next year, they

produced a medal for the Jewish National Fund, which included Jewish holiday names in Hebrew. After the Anschluss in 1938, Vienna Mint medals included German holidays such as Leader's (Hitler's) Birthday. In 1946 (but only that year), they listed April 27 as Liberation Day and had an extra inscription Austria is Free.



Mostly it's the early issues that show all twelve zodiac signs. Above are the reverses for the 1934 and 1935 medals. The 1934 has all the signs arrayed around the perimeter in counter-clockwise order with Aries starting at bottom right. The 1935 clusters the signs by season in groups of three, starting with Aries at top left.





The 1936 medal (in English, but the design is the same as the Germanlanguage version) also clusters by season and the 1937 medal has no discernable sequence.



The 1938 and 1939 medals use the more traditional format of a circle of signs. The 1938 starts at 1 o'clock but the 1939 starts at 9 o'clock. Both proceed counter-clockwise. Notice that the 1939 uses **fraktur** script while all previous medals used a simple **Gothic** style. That was because Vienna became part of Greater Germany in 1938.



World War Two did not stop the Vienna Mint's production of calendar medals, although now they made medals of zinc in addition to bronze and silver. The 1940 shows the signs in a circle while the 1941 shows the seasonal cluster.



During the War, a number of companies sponsored their own versions of the calendar medals: These 1942 medals bear the names of First Savings Fund and Degussa, silver and gold refinery. The First Savings Fund medal, on left, shows the zodiac signs counter-clockwise with Aries beginning at 2 o'clock. The Degussa medal, on right, shows the signs clockwise with Aries at 3 o'clock.



After the war, designs tended to show only the planet regent and one or two related zodiac signs. However, in 1951 the design included all 12 zodiac signs arrayed in a 3x4 grid, starting with Aries at top left and going left to right, top to bottom. The 1965 medal shows what looks like a star map with nine different signs arrayed around the equator and 3 in the center. However, their location does not match real star maps and there is no consistent sequence (for example, Leo and Virgo, adjacent in time and in the sky, are shown at almost opposite ends of the medal).



Saturn ruled both years 1951 and 1965. Saturn is the Roman name for Chronus (the Greek name), ruler of Time. Perhaps the designers at the Vienna Mint thought the most artistic way to demonstrate time was to show all the zodiac signs. That would explain the 1979 design which shows all 12 signs starting with Aries at the top but proceeding clockwise, with the planet Saturn (with exaggerated rings) in the center. Note that all three of these post-war medals were issued 14 years (or 2 cycles) apart. However, that doesn't explain why the Vienna Mint chose the 1987 medal to show the 12 signs, each in their own circle surrounding a standing figure of Jupiter who holds his famous lightning bolts. The series starts with Aries at 9 o'clock and continues clockwise, except they are interrupted at 12 o'clock by Jupiter's head, 6 o'clock by his feet, and 2 o'clock by an image of the planet Jupiter which the god holds in his left hand.



The last decade of medals are still available on the Internet. These are all 40mm silver proof in decorative explanatory folders (though, of course, the explanations are in German). The year 2003 medal is shown here with Helios (sun) in his chariot and associated zodiac sign of Leo the lion. A full listing of these medals can be found in *Die Zeit in Numismatik* by Strothotte. Most can be viewed at

http://www.austriancoins.com/MedalsCalendarI.html maintained by Dale Hallmark.

Ballot

MSNA by-laws require an annual election in which all paid-up members can participate. Please include your name on the envelope and <u>not</u> on the ballot, so we can verify eligibility but keep the votes anonymous.

The results will be announced at the MSNA annual meeting at 4PM November 6 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Please vote for one candidate per office or write in your candidate (after gaining their concurrence, please).

Jack Schadegg	(write-in)
Vice President Joe Burford	<i>,</i>
	(write-in)
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Bryce Doxzon	
	(write-in)
Treasurer	
Simcha Kuritzky, CPA	
	(write-in)

Ballots should be mailed to be received no later than November 1 to:

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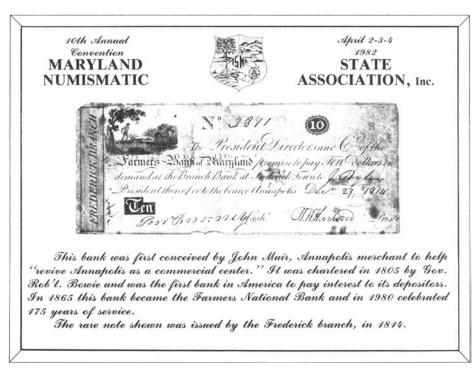
- **4-5 Sept. Interstate Coin Show, Grand Venice Hotel**, 431 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4.
- **18 Sept. Bel Mar Bi-Annual Coin Show**, Grove Church Hall, 50 East Bel Air Avenue, Aberdeen, MD. 9-3.
- **19 Sept. Annapolis Coin and Currency Show**, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.
- **19 Sept–Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show**, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.
- **26 Sept. Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition Show**, Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson, MD; 9-4. 410-256-1832 evening
- **2 Oct. Middle River Coin Show**, Victory Villa Community Center, 404 Compass Road, Middle River, MD; 10-3. pennsylpete@comcast.net
- **2-3 Oct. CEO Coins, Currency & Treasurers Ocean City Show,** Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center, 4001 Ocean Highway & 40th Street, Ocean City, MD; Fri.-Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5.
- **8-9 Oct. Frederick Coin & Currency Show**, Grange Hall, 1 South 8th Alley, New Market, MD; 9:30-4:30.
- **17 Oct. Cambridge Coin Show,** American Legion Post 91 Sunburst Highway (Route 50), Cambridge, MD; 11-5.
- **24** Oct.—Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.
- **31 Oct. Westminster Fire Hall Coin and Currency Show,** Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.
- **4-7 Nov. Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention**, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 W Pratt St.; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3.
- **6-7 Nov. Western Maryland Fall Coin Club Show**, Fire Hall #1, 421 National Highway, Lavale, MD. Sat. 9-4, Sun. 10-3.
- **20 Nov. Greater Westminster Show**, Best Western Conference Center, Rte. 140 at WMC Drive, Westminster, MD; 10-4.

(continued next page)

- **21 Nov.—Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show**, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.
- **28 Nov. Annapolis Coin and Currency Show**, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.
- **19 Dec.–Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show**, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

MSNA Souvenir Sheets for sale

Souvenir sheets from 1982 to 2008 are available for \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5. Scans of the sheets are available by email on request to the editor. All purchases should be made through the editor and checks made out to MSNA. Include \$2 for postage unless arrangements are made to pick up the sheets at a regular Baltimore Coin Club or MSNA board meeting.



1982 Farmers Bank of Maryland \$10 note of 1814

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